

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE - WEST TEXAS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
LVN TO RN CAREER BRIDGE PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider Texas State Technical College - West Texas (TSTC-WT) proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and the report of a survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Texas State Technical College (TSTC) was established in 1965 at Waco as the James Connally Technical Institute of Texas A&M University to meet the state's evolving workforce needs.
- Over time through expansion and change, the college was renamed Texas State Technical College and the college began to function independently in 1999.
- Today TSTC includes four colleges: TSTC Harlingen, TSTC Marshall, TSTC Waco, and TSTC - West Texas.
- TSTC-WT includes four sites: Abilene, Breckenridge, Brownwood, and Sweetwater.
- More than 15,000 students attend TSTC in credit programs alone.
- TSTC -WT has vocational nursing education programs at Breckenridge and Sweetwater.
- A site visit was conducted on September 26, 2007 by Janice Hooper and Karen Neighbors .

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:

Overview of the Proposal:

- In collaboration with Ranger College (RC) and Western Texas College (WTC), TSTC-WT is proposing to establish a 70 credit hour LVN to RN Career Bridge Program with 24 of the 70 credit hours being awarded from previous VN coursework.
- RC and WTC will provide prerequisite courses for the nursing program.
- TSTC-WT will provide the nursing courses via interactive teaching (ITV) to the other campuses.
- Because of the ITV interconnectivity, nursing students may attend classes on the Sweetwater, Brownwood or Breckenridge campuses.
- Nursing skills labs will be located at each campus.
- The program is proposing to begin in Spring 2008 with an enrollment of twenty students.
- The program may be completed in twelve months and has been designed to attract local applicants to meet the service needs of rural West Texas.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Hospital surveys conducted in the surrounding West Texas communities indicate a growing need in multiple settings for registered nurses.
- The proposed program has community support from other nursing education programs and health care institutions in the area.
- The program has been developed in response to community needs.

Availability of Clinical Sites:

- Clinical facilities have indicated their ability to provide clinical experiences for students enrolled in this program.
- A collaboration between local nursing education programs exists for scheduling clinical activities and TSTC-WT will participate in this collaboration.
- Signed clinical agreements are in place.

Availability of Faculty:

- Three qualified full time faculty are named to begin the program.
- Five additional applicants for faculty positions hold Master's degrees in nursing.

Financial Support and Resources:

- Presidents from the three colleges (RC, WTC, TSTC) have provided letters of approval and support for the program.
- The president of TSTC-WT has provided a letter of support in which he commits the resources of the College, including financial budgeting adequate for the success of this program.

Applicant Pool:

- The potential student population consists primarily of students completing the VN programs at TSTC-WT, WTC and RC.
- In addition, the program will be open to all LVNs who meet admission criteria.
- Currently TSTC-WT has an average of 150 graduates per year from the VN program.

Faculty and Student Handbooks:

- A faculty handbook and a student handbook for the new program have been developed and reviewed by board staff.

Curriculum:

- The curriculum has been appropriately developed for an associate degree nursing education program.
- Required clinical experiences have been planned to meet clinical objectives.

Facilities, Resources and Services:

- The current secretary will have support responsibility for both the RN and VN programs.
- Budget is provided for a minimum of two work study students to assist with clerical needs.
- The IT department is available and on-call 24 hours a day. There are five full time staff with one dedicated to distance learning and interactive programming.
- The Sweetwater campus recently remodeled a facility for classrooms, labs, faculty offices and conference area to house the nursing department.
- The physical resources were surveyed during the Site Visit, September 26, 2007.

Student Support Services:

- A full array of student support services are available for students on the campuses.

Records and Reports:

- Adequate provision for records and reports has been included.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The Total Evaluation Plan provides all required elements.

SUMMARY OF SITE VISIT:

- **General Campus Information**
TSTC-WT is a modern spacious campus providing programs of study for the community and many services to its students. The campus offers a full array for the campus life experience for its students.

Classrooms:

- Dedicated classrooms for the nursing programs are spacious, well-lighted, and nicely furnished with tables and chairs to allow comfort for students.
- Technology is available in the classroom and IT help is available to faculty and students.

Skills Laboratory:

- Two large skills laboratories are available for the programs. Rotating of lab hours will prevent scheduling conflicts.
- Lab equipment and supplies are appropriate.

Computer Laboratory:

- A large room is ready to be used for the computer lab.
- Fifty-five new computers are on order.
- Nursing students will have a priority in scheduling lab times

Faculty Offices and Resources:

- Each faculty member has an attractive private office appropriately furnished.
- Instructional resources are readily available.

Learning Resources Area:

- Audiovisual materials are available and accessible to students in the nursing storage area.
- The library is under renovation at the present time and will be ready for use during the Spring 2008. It will include study areas for student use, a coffee shop, and new holdings.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The campus at TSTC-WT will provide an excellent setting for the new professional nursing educational program.
- Administration are very supportive of the new program.
- Faculty and administration are innovative in their thinking and planning for all programs on campus.

Cons:

- The library is presently under renovation and the temporary location for the library is not easily accessible to the nursing programs. Renovation will be completed in Spring 2008.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to grant initial approval for Texas State Technical College - West Texas to establish a new associate degree nursing education program based upon the proposal and findings from the survey visit and issue the commendation and recommendation as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT**
(Professional Nursing Education Programs)

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texas State Technical College - West Texas

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Proposed Director: Lori Ferguson, MSN, RN

DATE APPOINTED

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Program Survey

DATES: September 26, 2007

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, and Karen Neighbors, BSN, RN

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

| STANDARD/CRITERIA | EVIDENCE | COMMENTS |
|---|--|----------------|
| §215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services | | |
| (a) The governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program. | Survey visit validated that the physical facilities will support the ADN program and provide a good learning environment for students. | Criterion met. |
| (b) The dean or director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program. | A full time secretary is in place for the VN and ADN programs. She is exceptionally competent and useful to the programs. | Criterion met. |

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| <p>(c) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body.</p> <p>(1) The dean or director shall have a private office.</p> <p>(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.</p> | <p>Classrooms are spacious, furnished with tables and chairs, and equipment for powerpoint and audiovisual learning is available.</p> <p>Individual faculty offices are available for faculty. Each is attractively decorated and unique to the faculty member's taste.</p> <p>Two spacious skills labs are furnished and updated for the professional nursing education program.</p> <p>The secretary/reception office is very spacious and welcoming to students. Students cannot enter the faculty office area without passing through the reception area.</p> <p>A locked room with locked file cabinets is available.</p> <p>There are adequate student and faculty lounges and restrooms. There are attractive spaces where students can study together.</p> | <p>Criterion met.</p> |
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| <p>(d) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p> | <p>The college library is presently under renovation and expansion. It will be located in the building which houses the nursing program and will contain small study rooms for group and individual student study. Presently the library holdings have been moved to a small space in another building on campus. This is a negative to the present situation because students do not have easy access to the library holdings. However, the completion of library renovations is scheduled for Spring 2008. Library hours accommodate student use most of the time including weekends. The Nursing Department also has many audiovisual holdings which may be used by students. Students have access to online library materials. The campus is equipped with modern technology and employs individuals with expertise in technology.</p> | <p>Work toward an appropriate library is in progress with expansion and renovation of the present library. This is scheduled for completion in Spring 2008.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> The program is encouraged to set up an accessible reading room for nursing students at the Sweetwater campus.</p> |
| §215.12 Records and Reports | | |
| <p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) transcripts/permanent record cards of graduates</p> <p>(3) faculty records;</p> <p>(4) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, annual reports, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(5) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(6) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(7) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p> | <p>Secure record storage is available.</p> | <p>Criterion met.</p> |

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| (b) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use. | | |
| (c) Copies of the program's Annual Reports and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate. | | |

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2007

Lori Ferguson, MSN, RN
Associate Vice President-Nursing Education
TSTC-West Texas
305 Booker Street
Brownwood, Texas 76801

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

At the October 18-19, 2007 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Texas State Technical College - West Texas Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, and the report of the September 26 , 2007 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you, Will Thompson, and Bill Guidera for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to Texas State Technical College - West Texas and allow admission of students beginning January 2008, and issue the following commendation and recommendation:

Commendation:

Texas State Technical College - West Texas is commended for its support and efforts to provide a professional nursing educational program for the area.

Recommendation:

The program is encouraged to set up an accessible reading room for nursing students at the Sweetwater campus.

A recommendation is a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing. The program director should provide a written explanation of the program's response to this recommendation by December 1, 2007.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Michael L. Reeser, President, TSTC
enclosure

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of Texas State Technical College - West Texas

For approval to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Texas State Technical College - WestTexas

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 18th day of October 2007, considered the proposal for authority to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
George Buchenau, Jr., RN, BSN, Representing Practice
Virginia M.. Campbell, RN, AND, BSN, CNOR, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Frank D. Sandoval, Jr., Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering an Associate Degree.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Texas State Technical College - West Texas is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program to prepare professional nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing education program and prior to admission of students all requirements of Chapter 215 Professional Nursing Education shall be met.

DATED THIS 18th day of October, 2007.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____
Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Texas State Technical College - West Texas

To Establish An

Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

at Sweetwater, Texas

Date and Time: October 18, 2007 at 3:30 PM

Place: Hobby Building

333 Guadalupe Street

Tower 2, Room 225

Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal.

Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 8, 2007.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942